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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQI GOVERNMENT, CONSTITUTION, ELECTIONS, TERRORISM, IRAQI FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ARAB LEAGUE; BAGHDAD

SUMMARY: Discussion on the Constitution, Elections, Terrorism, Iraqi Foreign Affairs, and the Arab League were the major editorial themes of the daily newspapers on October 6, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

[1A.](#) "This Morning"
Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed, independent, published this front-page editorial by Ismael Zayyer:

"We have two main problems in Iraq today. The first is that we do not have good contact with the rest of the world, and in particular the Arab world, because the entire world has failed to understand the extent of our suffering under the former regime. The world does not comprehend the depth of our wounds and pain. Simply put, we do not have clear relationships with others because the dynamics of these relationships remain unclear.

"The second problem is that we have some political parties that are able to dominate the whole political process-- parties and movements that are entirely disparate. But, they united their efforts for the sake of one goal that was to end dictatorship in Iraq. This goal caused us, as Iraqis, to establish an alliance with the Americans in spite of our differing interests and opinions on how to achieve the objective and topple Saddam's regime. Though it seems that the Iraqi people have disagreements about everything, they agreed to one thing and that was opposing Saddam.

"We have not paid more attention to our objections with the U.S. because our national interests were more important than everything else. However, we still lack the initiative to remove the obstacles that are barriers to democracy. If we want to achieve our objectives we have to quickly convene an inclusive national initiative to unify this country."

[1B.](#) "Has the Arab Solution Come Too Late?"
Al-Fourat, independent, anti-coalition published this page-two editorial by Mohammed Hannon:

"Iraqi political players were surprised by a late initiative from the Arab League, launched from Riyadh after a visit by U.S. Ambassador to Iraq [Zalmay] Khalilzad during an intensive initiative that included Arab and international factions, included to save the U.S. operation in Iraq from crisis. We realize that the Arabs have political influence in Iraq but they have waited, carelessly, to see who the winner would be while Iraqis shed their blood on a daily basis. Although, we believe the Arab initiative has come late we nevertheless consider it important to unify Iraq under the Arab tent.

"We want this initiative to be effective for all Iraqis without regard to sect or religious denomination in order to allow everyone the opportunity to speak about their interests. We believe that Iraqis are capable of solving their problems without force. They will also become involved with all Arab and international political entities if they find it benefits national reconciliation. They realize now that this reconciliation is important, especially if it comes through an Arab initiative because Arabs know better than anyone else that it is impossible for Iraq to deny its Arab principals and origins."

[1C.](#) "Satellite News Channels and their Polls"
Al-Ittihad, pro coalition, affiliated with the PUK led by

Jalal Al-Talabani, published this page-three column by Abdul Hadi Mahdi:

"Large numbers of newspapers, magazines and other media organizations have appeared in Iraq following long decades of dictatorship where the media subordinated itself to the government's direction and instructions which were aimed solely at supporting the regime and perpetuating its policies. This policy led to control over the Iraqi media and prohibited them from exercising freedom and creativity which led to Iraqi mistrust of the local media. But when the winds of change blew into Iraq in April 2003, the Iraqi media woke up. The picture of the Iraqi media is totally different from what it was in the past, it now belongs to the people of Iraq who guide the media-in the interests of the people.

"A few days ago, one of the new Iraqi satellite news channels, which has not yet commenced official broadcast, conducted a poll on federalism. No one opposes polls, but at the same time they are double edged swords and those conducting them should base them on proven scientific methods before announcing the results.

"The satellite news channel that I mentioned above, asked one question in its poll: 'Will Federalism divide Iraq?' These channels create the possibilities for many types of results based on the manner and structure of their questions. Those running the stations may have agendas for posing certain types of questions, or perhaps their owners/investors impose their will, or it's possible the people implementing the polls are technically ignorant and have no background in the subject matter (i.e. federalism).

"Iraqis won't accept the division of Iraq, and there is very big difference between dividing the country and federalism and those running satellite channels realize this. Federalism will become a reality in Iraq because it's included in the first article of the constitution which says, 'The Republic of Iraq is an independent, sovereign nation, and the system of rule in it is a democratic, federal, representative (parliamentary) republic.' Therefore we need to disseminate these principles and make citizens aware of them-the media should assume responsibility for this. Actually, those who saw this poll wished that the channel would review its methodology so it can properly perform its role in the new Iraq."

D. "The Arabs' Attitudes Toward Iraq"
Al-Dawa, affiliated with Islamic Al-Dawa Party, led by Al-Anzi, published this back-page editorial by Haitham Al-Fraiji:

"The Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saud Al-Faisal, declared that the U.S. has divided Iraq and it handed it to Iran. This statement is unrealistic and for this reason we demand that Al-Faisal explain to us what he means by division. Does the removal of the dictator mean division? Why were Arab countries, and especially Saudi Arabia, silent about Saddam's crimes and tyranny? We all know that those countries assisted Saddam in hiding facts and also helped him crush the 1991 intifadah in the north and south of Iraq. However, the [predominately Sunni] 'white cities' did not participate in that intifadah and now these cities represent a source for terrorism.

"Perhaps, these cities provide terrorism through media coverage, logistics and weapons. [Middle] Eastern regimes generally suffer from a problem called democracy because it destroys their dreams and causes rulers to live in a state of permanent worry. It seems that the lights of freedom have started to reach dictatorial regimes and for this reason these regimes have begun to fight the lights that shine from Iraq. Al-Faisal's words indicate that such statements aim to divide Iraqis and incite them to fight one another. We cannot remain silent about terrorism that comes from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria. We all know that the Gulf States' money is being paid to support global terrorism.

"We haven't heard of any Iraqis blowing themselves up in car bombs near a school in Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states. However, we know that these countries support and fund terrorism. In any case, the Iraqi people will never forget their wounds nor will they ever forget those who incited sedition amongst Iraqis. I do not know how the U.S. handed Iraq to Iran. Are the Iranian forces settled in the south and center of Iraq and have they started to openly control those areas? I just want to ask Al-Faisal, can he interfere in Qatar, UAE, Oman or Yemen's internal affairs; those countries publicly welcome diplomatic relations with Israel without any embarrassment. Can he say Israel occupied Egypt, Jordan or other Arab countries when it opened embassies in their capitals? I think this a double-faced policy that represents tyranny and oppression."

E. "Ramadan and Terrorism"

Al-Adala, affiliated with SCIRI led by Abdul Aziz Al-Hakim, published this page-three editorial by Dr. Ali Khalif:

"The holy month of Ramadan has come while Iraqis are experiencing democracy and looking forward to participate in the referendum. Without a doubt, those who espouse Islam and at the same time kill our people every day, are not believers. If they were really Muslims they would not have killed humans during this holy month.

"At the beginning of this month, terrorists waged terrorist attacks in different areas in Iraq and those attacks led to the spilling of sacred blood and the killing of innocent Iraqis. We want to know why those killers have targeted innocent Iraqis during this holy month. In fact, Ramadan has stigmatized the crimes of those killers. In addition, this holy month will witness the referendum which the Iraqi people have been waiting for in order to defeat terrorists and their supporters.

"Terrorists have two choices. Either they'll increase their attacks or they'll announce defeat in front of the Iraqi people. Terrorists will definitely resort to the first option. However, they are about to be defeated especially in light of the successes of the Iraqi security forces which were able to strike at the hiding places of terrorists and eliminate their safe-havens. I am sure that within a few days, and after the approval of the new Iraqi constitution in this holy month, we will see the lights of hope illuminated in our country. We know that terrorists do not care about the holiness of this month or the sacredness of the human soul. But, we were astonished to see some groups and associations that still have ambiguous stances toward terrorism. Those groups try to describe terrorists and terrorist operations with strange names and have remained silent--they fail to call terrorists criminal killers."

KHALILZAD